



Small Projects Day, Section 1: Project Proposal

1. **Responsible Official:** Chris Mattrick, Acting District Ranger, Manchester Ranger District, Green Mountain National Forest
2. **Project Name:** Weston CCC Trail
3. **Project Location:** Town of Weston, VT; Bennington County.
4. **Project Contact:** Emily Lauderdale, (802)-362-2307 x7227, emily.lauderdale@usda.gov
5. **Purpose and Need** (*Why here? Why now? Why is the outcome desired?*): A group of individuals associated with the Weston Historical Society, Weston Conservation Commission, and (existing partner) Mountain Valley Trails Association has approached the Manchester District with a request to add a hiking trail to the Weston CCC camp on the template of Forest Road 299 located off Route 155. The group has consistently proposed the trail after a salvage sale was unsuccessful in the area that would have provided an opportunity for road clearing on FR 299. Although it is not possible to extend a trail to the CCC camp site due to wetlands and a beaver pond, the trail would serve as a short out-and-back hike on relatively flat terrain. The purpose of this project is to enhance the recreation opportunities in the area since the Manchester District does not have many beginner/easy trails that are easily accessible from major roads. The partner group would also have the opportunity to add an interpretive sign about the Weston CCC camp along the trail in the future.
6. **Project Description** (*What will we be doing? How will we do it? Where is the project located?*): This project would add 0.25 miles of Forest Road 299 as a hiking trail (Trail Class 2). An existing pull-out off Route 155 (within a VTrans right-of-way) would serve as a parking area. This pull-out can accommodate two vehicles. The partner organization (Mountain Valley Trails Association or a new partnership with the Weston Historical Society or Weston Conservation Commission) would be responsible for keeping the trail cleared. No bridges or other trail tread infrastructure would be built. Streams would be crossed by fording. Signage on the trail would be minimal and limited to necessary route markers and indication of the trail's end at wetland. The partner organization may fund an interpretive sign just beyond the existing boulders near the Route 155 pull-out.
7. **Forest Plan Management Area:** Diverse Forest Use
8. **Forest Plan Compliance** (*How does this project comply with the Land & Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) direction?*): The project complies with the major emphasis of the Diverse Forest Use management area by contributing to a full range of recreation opportunities. The trail would also add to the desired diversity of trail experiences of the management area.
9. **Exclusion Category:** CFR 220.6 (e) (1) Trail Construction and Reconstruction
10. **Expected Implementation Date:** September 2020

